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2022 Combined Legislative Priorities

**Water Quality**

We **support** consistent sustained funding levels for priority Everglades Restoration projects including the Everglades Agricultural Area reservoir to accomplish the objective of sending clean water south as quickly as possible; the C-43 Reservoir project and associated water quality treatment along the Caloosahatchee; and implementation of other critical storage and water quality infrastructure projects north, south, east, and west of Lake Okeechobee.

We **support** legislative actions implementing the Blue-Green Algae Task Force’s recommendations that aim to reduce nutrient pollution from all sources, to protect the public, businesses, and the environment from harmful algal blooms.

We **support** strengthening stormwater standards for urban landscapes (statewide stormwater rule update and ratification) and agricultural runoff, particularly for nutrient pollution from nitrogen and phosphorus that feeds harmful algal blooms.

We **support** funding for and plans to upgrade and build advanced wastewater treatment to reduce nutrients in reuse/reclaimed irrigation water with monitoring of nutrient concentrations.

We **support** the establishment of statewide septic tank inspection and maintenance requirements.

**Tourism / Visit Florida**

We **support** the continued full funding of Visit Florida based on the agency requested appropriations and the removal of the sunset clause.

**Early childhood education**-

We **support** initiatives that incentivize child care providers to offer infant care and nontraditional hours to better serve Florida’s workforce; encourage, promote and incentivize at-home providers to become registered childcare providers; and expand access to high-quality, affordable childcare options in Southwest Florida and across the state.

**Collier County Veterans’ nursing home-**

We **support** Collier County’s request to build a state veterans’ nursing home on County-owned property, located near Golden Gate Parkway and Collier Blvd., and to contribute $30 million in local option sales surtax revenue toward the State’s share of construction costs. We also support Collier County’s request for $14 million in operational and maintenance costs for each of the first two years of operations, until the facility census is at or near capacity and financially self-sustaining.

**Workforce Development/ Education**

We **support** fully funding workforce education programs provided by the state technical college system. We also support legislation that expands, encourages, and incentivizes work-based learning opportunities, including career and technical training, internships and apprenticeships, and post-secondary education.

We **support** funding for innovative and swift solutions that provide trained workers for in-demand industries.

We **support** creating alternative, non-traditional pathways to train an ever-evolving workforce.

We **support** fully funding career technical education programs.

**Workforce Housing**

We **support** policies that encourage and enable workforce/affordable housing opportunities including high-density mixed-use development.

We **support** policies that enable municipalities to be flexible with zoning and permitting processes; policies that cut red tape, eliminate government interference, and reduce building costs.

We **support** funding for local projects that provide affordable housing for the Southwest Florida workforce.

We **support** both public and private initiatives that offer incentives for planning and building workforce housing projects.

We **support** the creation of alternative funding solutions for workforce/affordable housing such as community development corporations or community land trusts.